



Greetings fellow FISTS and welcome to October's edition of Brass Pounder.

It's incredible how the evenings draw in, the skies darken and the lower freqs become home once more, those halcyon days of 20m and up are fading fast and so too are the signals they brought us. Another few weeks and BST itself will be a faint memory, Zulu time reigns supreme once more and the shack log makes sense!

Or something like that anyway.

The various sprints were extremely popular, so much so that we have got a re-run planned with a few changes. I confess that these details are Grahams, he seems to have more time than tasks to fill it (I won't tell his wife if you don't) and he does put in a lot of thought. Some of us are at work!! Graham, thank you.

Proposed activities:

Jan 15: Thursday – Bug keys
Feb 15: Sunday – Mechanical keys
Mar 15: Sunday – Straight keys
April 15: Wednesday – Bug keys
May 15: Friday – Mechanical keys
Jun 15: Monday – Straight keys
Jul 15: Wednesday – Bug keys
Aug 15: Saturday – Mechanical keys
Sep 15: Tuesday – Straight keys
Oct 15: Thursday – Bug keys
Nov 15: Sunday – Mechanical keys
Dec 15: Tuesday – Straight keys

Cross word / wordsearch 2026

There will be a word search cross word puzzle again in the spring time of '26. Keep your '2 across - found in potatoes and as a homonym in the house of commons' peeled!!

Straight Eight '26

Again, as the straight key weeks are very popular I thought we might run a straight key eight day event, 12th to 19th January inclusive to blow away those January cobwebs. Times will be confirmed but everything will be the same as usual.

30m and 60m

I know the 30m / 60m bands are tender subjects for some when it comes to 'points' and 'scoring' but we can and should use these bands. Please send in soapbox logs plus the total number of QSOs. As per regs, this is not a contest but it will be interesting to see how many QSO people are getting.

60M ACTIVATION 2026	
DESCRIPTION	Let's get busy on 60m in February with 2 weeks of CW QSOs with anyone on the band. Please keep count of the number of QSO
DATES and TIMES	Continuous running, 24/7 from start to finish BUT if you concentrate your activity around the cardinal hours it will improve chances...maybe! So, operate any time at all but try to be on at 00, 03, 06, 09, 12, 15, 18, 21 LOCAL TIME PLEASE (if you want to work Dx then adjust accordingly). Also try different times of the day and night to learn about propagation. Monday 9th Feb to Monday 23th Feb - 2 weeks activity.
FREQUENCIES	Any 60m frequency you are licensed to use for CW. ▪ UK holders of a Full licence only: The RSGB Band Plan 60m primary CW segment is 5258.5 kHz - 5264.0 kHz and includes a QRP Centre of Activity (CoA) of 5262.0 kHz. ▪ Outside UK: There is an IARU Region 1 (Europe) Band Plan that includes a 60m CW and narrow band segment. Please refer to your national guidelines.
EXCHANGE	There is no minimum exchange.
SCORING	There are no scores as such but please send in soapbox logs with total number of QSOs
LOGS	In order to assess the success or otherwise of this event I would appreciate soapbox comments and total number of QSO please to logs@fists.co.uk .

30M ACTIVATION 2026	
DESCRIPTION	Let's get busy on 30m in March with 2 weeks of CW QSOs with anyone on the band.
DATES and TIMES	Continuous running, 24/7 from start to finish BUT if you concentrate your activity around the cardinal hours it will improve chances...maybe! So, operate any time at all but try to be on at 00, 03, 06, 09, 12, 15, 18, 21 LOCAL TIME PLEASE (if you want to work Dx then adjust accordingly). Also try different times of the day and night to learn about propagation. Monday 9th March to Monday 23th March - 2 weeks activity.
FREQUENCIES	Any 30m frequency you are licensed to use for CW.
EXCHANGE	There is no minimum exchange.
SCORING	There are no points but please send in soapbox logs and total number of QSO
LOGS	In order to assess the success or otherwise of this event I would appreciate soapbox comments and total number of QSO please to logs@fists.co.uk .

This is quite urgent if you're keen - ends on the 18th I believe.

<https://eucw.org/a/ich.txt> :

Activity week "Morse telegraphy - An Intangible Cultural Heritage"

Organizer: AGCW-DL and DARC

This is not a contest but an informal exchange of normal QSOs celebrating Morse code as a treasure of mankind's Intangible Cultural Heritage.

Period: From Sunday to Saturday in the week that contains October 18. This is the International Day of Intangible Cultural Heritage as proclaimed by UNESCO. In 2025 the activity runs from Sunday, Oct 12, 0000 UTC, to Saturday, Oct 18, 2359 UTC.

Frequencies (upper ten kHz of CW bands):

3560 - 3570 kHz
7030 - 7040 kHz
10120 - 10130 kHz
14060 - 14070 kHz
18085 - 18095 kHz
21060 - 21070 kHz
24905 - 24915 kHz
28060 - 28070 kHz

Operating modes: only CW. The same station may be worked once per day and per band.

Participation classes: QRP (up to 5W RF), LP (up to 100W RF)

Log format: ADIF (.adi) The fields qso_date, time_on, band or freq, mode, rst_sent, qth, and name must be included; all other fields are ignored. QSO format is free; name and qth may also be derived from former contacts. Yet, this is NOT a contest; do NOT use contest style.

Log upload: No later than 14 days after the end of the activity
to <https://contest.agcw.de/ike>

Manager: DF4WX

I think that's it for me for now, have a good time on the bands and I'll see you after the clocks change!!

David
G4YVM F15868

New Members

Name	Call	No.	Name	Call	No.	Name	Call	No.
Darryl	KB6DAD	#23067	Chris	W2BPL	#23072	Max	2E0KDJ	#23131
Marc	KM7AZ	#23068	Michael	KB0NVR	#23073	Eric	G3TXZ	#23132
Paolo	K1PAP	#23069	Michael	KM7BDO	#23074	Chris	G0HRX	#23133
Patrick	KI4GPG	#23070	Fred	WB4AEJ	#23075			
Joe	N3ZRW	#23071	Paul	K4CVR	#23076			

Awards

Name	Callsign	Member	Award
Vanni	I5ECW	#16505	Millionaire 15 Million Endorsement

Bug Key 24 Hour Sprint – September 2025: Comments

Entrant	Comments
Ciemon G0TRT	Busy busy day, and none of it radio but I managed a couple. More bug sprints please! Ciemon - GØTRT CW Ops #3429
Fabrizio IU0AHC	Semiautomatic "bug" original vibroplex from 1914. 73s, Fab
Alan MW0BGL	Attached is my submission for last Saturday's Bug Key Sprint. A lot of contest stations which caused QRM at times, including causing me to lose a QSO with a Stateside station. That said, I did accrue several points in working some of the testers. Vy 73, Alan Mw0bgl 16507

Bug Key 24 Hour Sprint – September 2025: Results

Callsign	Position	Points
IU0AHC	1	32
MW0BGL	2	14
G0TRT	3	3

Mechanical Key Week 2025: Comments

Entrant	Comments
Martin DL1GBZ	Thanks for the nice event.
Simon G0FOZ	Key in use was anew Begali Intrepid Bug switching to a Kent straight key for a QRS QSO. 73 Simon
Ciemon G0TRT	A fun week, but it will need more effort next time. Ciemon - GØTRT CW Ops #3429
John G0UBE	Great fun, but a lot of hours on air to get 7 QSOs
Martyn M0HGG	Please find attached my log submission for the FISTS CW Club September Mechanical Key Week. It's just a few but a start for me ! 73/72 Martyn M0HGG FISTS CW# 22668
Steve M0SHM	Sneaked in some contacts from the Ladder where I used my Czech Army straight key.
Alan MW0BGL	Submitting my Mechanical Key Week activity log. Another very enjoyable event. 73, Alan Mw0bgl 16507
Erkki OH7QR	Hello David, please find attached my MKWeek log. Tnx and 73 de Erkki OH7QR
Norbert ON4ANE	Hello David, mni CQ's few QSO's! 73 de Norbert ON4ANE

Mechanical Key Week 2025: Results

Callsign	Position	Points
MW0BGL	1	117
DL1GBZ	2	64
ON4ANE	3	49
OH7QR	4	39
G0FOZ	5	35
G0TRT	=6	15
M0SHM	=6	15
G0UBE	8	11
M0HGG	9	6

Ladder September 2025: Comments

Entrant	Comments
Alan 2E0YEM	Thanks for the QSOs.
Jean-Jacques F5IJO	Hello Fists, Propagation opened up a bit, a few good DX last week... Jean-Jacques - F5IJO FISTS#17008 LICW#5902
Jean F6JOE	Good conditions ! 73 Jean F6JOE - FISTS 16177
Ivan G0BON	Had a spare hour in the last Sunday afternoon so gave a few points away. All QSO's using a Swedish straight key.
Simon G0FOZ	Could only work the early session on the 14th and so slim pickings with poor conditions but always great to meet the regulars. 73 Simon
Ciemon G0TRT	Finally some time, but the afternoon session was really quiet. The evening session was much better, and all on the bug too. Great stuff. Ciemon Dunville - GØTRT CW Ops #3429
Robin G4DNP	Some good daytime conditions for my QRP and mni thanks to contacts for patience. 73/72 Robin
Martyn M0HGG	Please find attached my log submission for the FIST CW Club Ladder for September. 73/72 Martyn M0HGG FISTS CW# 22668
Steve M0SHM	Worked the last Sunday with my antenna only abt 4m up due to snapped rope. Need to get the ladders out soon before the bad weather. Band conditions better this month.
Pete M5ABN	Log for September, good conditions on the 28th, made a nice change. looking forward to October. 73 Pete #6423
Alan MW0BGL	Please find attached my ladder log for September. During today's ladder (September 28th) I found conditions generally quite favourable (for a change hihi). Thanks to all the other Fists members I worked. Nice to hear so many other Fists stations on the bands. 73, de Alan Mw0bgl 16507
Erkki OH7QR	Hello David, please find attached my Ladder log. Tnx and 73 de Erkki OH7QR
Norbert ON4ANE	Hello David, condx aren't great! 73 de Norbert ON4ANE

Ladder September 2025: Results

Callsign	Posn	Prev	Move	Total	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
M5ABN	1	1	-	633	78	63	72	78	67	86	60	58	71
MW0BGL	2	2	-	498	54	65	72	51	63	55	33	53	52
ON4ANE	3	3	-	478	52	63	54	57	54	49	49	47	53
G3XVL	4	4	-	413	69	83	63	52	69	65	12		
G0FOZ	5	5	-	397	6	39	59	45	49	71	57	34	37
M0PBZ	6	6	-	302	49	57	60	33	51	52			
M0SHM	7	9	↑	297	33	45	36	33	36	27	21	30	36
G3ZRJ	8	7	↓	264	35	69	64				32	64	
G4YTJ	9	8	↓	262	33	18	46	42	18	36	21	48	
OH7QR	10	11	↑	229	23	39	18	28	24	13	31	25	28
M7TSM	11	10	↓	204	22	21	27	33	33	21	21	26	
MM0UMH	12	12	-	194	38	62		29	22	22		6	15
F6JOE	13	13	-	185	27	12	33	21	18	16		30	28
2E0DPH	14	14	-	137	42	63	32						
G4TJE	15	15	-	129	16	26	33	8	8	8		7	23
PA0SIM	16	16	-	96	30	27	24		15				
G4DNP	17	18	↑	94	19	12	10	6	12			13	22
G0DFC	18	17	↓	90	42	30	18						
G4TPJ	19	19	-	66	33	9	24						
G4KKU	20	20	-	60	6		6	18		6	6	12	6
G4YTK	21	21	-	45	9	21	3	6	6				
DL6NAN	22	22	-	37						37			
G0UBE	23	23	-	36			22					14	
G0JHK	=24	24	-	34	34								
G0TRT	=24	-	↑	34									34
OH2BN	26	=26	-	30					12	6		6	6
2E0YEM	27	-	↑	29									29
SQ9S	28	25	↓	28	28								
G3PCL	=29	29	-	24				3	6		3	6	6
M0MCL	=29	=26	↓	24	24								
M0KBJ	31	28	↓	19		19							
DL3GJ	32	30	↓	17		1			16				
G0BON	33	-	↑	15									15
F5IJO	34	31	↓	6		3	3						
EI2KA	=35	32	↓	3		3							
M0YRU	=35	=33	↓	3		1							2
M0HGG	37	-	↑	2									2
M7YRU	38	=33	↓	1		1							

Upcoming Events

October 2025

First day	Last day	Event	Times
Wed 01 Oct		ICWC Top 9	24 hours each day UTC
		Quarter 4 season starts	
Sun 26 Oct		FISTS Ladder	1400-1559 UTC, 1800-1959 UTC

November 2025

First day	Last day	Event	Times
Sat 01 Nov	Sun 02 Nov	RSGB 2m CW Marconi Contest	1400-1400 UTC
Sun 09 Nov		FISTS Ladder	1400-1559 UTC, 1800-1959 UTC
Sun 23 Nov		FISTS Ladder	1400-1559 UTC, 1800-1959 UTC

December 2025

First day	Last day	Event	Times
Sun 14 Dec		FISTS Ladder	1400-1559 UTC, 1800-1959 UTC
Sun 28 Dec		FISTS Ladder	1400-1559 UTC, 1800-1959 UTC
